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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ADS-00 EA-10 PM-06 MSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 MSAE-00 OODE-00 SMS-01 /873
-----076657 301224Z /12

P R 300949Z OCT 79
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECSTATE WASHDC 6137
CINCPAC
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E.O. 12065: GOS 10/29/85 (FLATIN, BRUCE A.) OR-M
TAGS: MOPS, PEPR, PINR, AF, UR, TU
SUBJ: (C) ~~TURKISH INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN~~

REF: ANKARA 7966 (NOTAL)

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

(A) AMIN-SOVIET STRAINS: ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS IN THE PAST THAT THE SOVIETS MIGHT HAVE PREPARED TO THE UNSTABLE AFGHAN SITUATION THE CONTINUED LEADERSHIP OF THE BROTHERS AND SISTER
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HAFIZULLAH AMIN, MOSCOW IS NOW LEADING THE WAY IN THE

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LEAST FOR THE SHORT RUN. WE AGREE WITH [REDACTED] THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOW UNDOUBTEDLY GUIDING AMIN TO FOLLOW A MODERATE COURSE IN ORDER TO BROADEN, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, HIS OWN BASE OF SUPPORT. WE ALSO FOUND THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR PUZANOV FROM FOREIGN MINISTER SHAH WALI'S UNUSUAL OCTOBER 6 BRIEFING A POSSIBLE INDICATIONS THAT THE SOVIET ROLE ON SEPTEMBER 14 COULD HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS ANTI-AMIN. HOWEVER, IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH A SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMAT, SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR SAFRONCHUK TRIED TO DOWNPLAY PUZANOV'S SEPTEMBER 14 ROLE, DESCRIBING IT AS AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE PEACE BETWEEN THE WARRING FACTIONS OF THE AFGHAN PARTY. ON OCTOBER 29, PUZANOV PRAISED AMIN HIGHLY ([REDACTED])

(WE SHOULD ADD THAT THERE ARE SOME OFFICERS IN THIS EMBASSY WHO BELIEVE THAT PAST TALK OF STRAINS BETWEEN AMIN AND THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN A "SHELL GAME" -- AND THAT THE TOUGH STRONGMAN HAS BEEN MOSCOW'S MAN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE KHALQI ERA.)

AMIN'S REFERENCE TO "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT" IN HIS OCTOBER 10 SPEECH IS NOT NEW. HE AND FORMER PRESIDENT TARAKI HAVE OCCASIONALLY USED THIS TERM IN THE PAST. HIS STATEMENT THAT "...ALL THE IMPORTANT AREAS OF PRODUCTION WILL BE CONSIDERED PUBLIC PROPERTY" WAS MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF ASSURING THE CONTINUED SECURITY OF PRIVATE PROPERTY (A PROMISE FREQUENTLY MADE BY THE KHALQI LEADERSHIP TO AFGHANISTAN'S "NATIONAL CAPITALISTS"), WHILE THREATENING TO DEPRIVE POSSESSORS OF "SOCIAL PRODUCTS" FROM "THE POWER TO SUBJECT THE LABOR OF OTHERS THROUGH PRIVATE OWNERSHIP THEREOF." THIS FORMULATION ALSO REPEATS A THEME WE HAVE HEARD HERE BEFORE.

(B) ASYLUM: WE DO NOT THINK THE THREE EXPELLED MILITARY MINISTERS ARE STILL WITHIN THE SOVIET EMBASSY, IF, INDEED, THEY HAD ONCE SOUGHT PROTECTION THERE. THE MOST COMMONLY HELD LOCAL VIEW IS THAT WATANJAR, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY
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GULABZOI, IS IN HIS HOME PROVINCE OF PAKTIA. [REDACTED]

THEY ARE BELIEVED BY SEVERAL LOCAL OBSERVERS TO BE TRYING TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES WITH DISAFFECTED MILITARY FORCES IN SOUTHEASTERN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT WATANJAR AND GULABZOI MAY BE IN THE USSR SO THAT THE SOVIETS COULD KEEP THEIR ACTIVITIES UNDER CONTROL. [REDACTED]

MANY BELIEVE MAZDOORYAR TO BE DEAD, BUT A DIPLOMAT STATES THAT HE WAS RECENTLY TOLD [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THAT MAZDOORYAR IS BEING KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN HIS QUARTERS AT THE PUL-I-CHARKI TANK BASE. IF THIS IS TRUE, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE UNDER SOVIET PROTECTION FROM AMIN (THE SOVIETS PROBABLY NOW CONTROL THAT BASE), WHO WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE HIM KILLED IMMEDIATELY IF HE COULD BE BROUGHT UNDER KHALQI CONTROL. THE SOVIET MOTIVE IN SUCH A SITUATION COULD BE TO MAINTAIN LEVERAGE AGAINST AMIN, WHO MUST BE PAINFULLY AWARE OF THE EXILED AFGHAN LEADERSHIP THE SOVIETS ARE KEEPING ON THE SHELF (E.G., THE PARHAMISTS).

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(C) PUZANOV: JUDGING FROM SHAH WALI'S WELL-REPORTED
REMARKS TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS ON OCTOBER 6, WE
ALSO BELIEVE THAT PUZANOV WAS PROBABLY AT THE PALACE AT
LEAST IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE SHOOTOUT -- IF NOT THROUGHOUT
THE EPISODE. WE ALSO THINK IT PLAUSIBLE THAT TARAKI MIGHT
HAVE BECOME A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY PREMATURELY FOR AMIN AT
THAT TIME -- AND THAT THE LATTER MIGHT NOT HAVE ORIGINALLY
SCHEDULED THE "GREAT LEADER'S" DEMISE DURING THIS PARTICULAR
PURGE OPERATION. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY "RECALCITRANT
MINISTER" HAVING BEEN EXECUTED AT THE PALACE IN THE PREVIOUS
YEAR. [REDACTED] (FORMER DEFENSE
MINISTER ABDUL QADER, WHO WAS TRICKED INTO COMING TO THE
PALACE -- WHERE HE WAS ARRESTED, IS BELIEVED TO STILL BE
ALIVE AT PUL-I-CHARKI PRISON.)
(D) ETEMADI: AFTER WIEGHING SEVERAL RELIABLE REPORTS, WE
TOO HAVE SADLY CONCLUDED THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER NUR AHMAD
ETEMADI HAS INDEED BEEN EXECUTED. ALTHOUGH THE AMIN REGIME
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HAS REPORTEDLY TRIED TO SHIFT THE BLAME FOR THAT ACT ON TARAKI
AND FORMER AGSA CHIEF ASADULLAH, THE EXECUTION PROBABLY OCCURRED.


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AFTER AMIN'S SEPTEMBER 14 TAKEOVER. THE CONSTANT REPORTS ABOUT SOVIET PLANS TO UTILIZE ETEMADI FOR A POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE TO AMIN APPARENTLY SEALED THE OLD MAN'S FATE.
(E) SAMS AT BAGRAM: BAGRAM AIRBASE IS UNDER SOVIET CONTROL, AND AMIN IS, THEREFORE, NOT ABLE TO HAVE ANY SPECIAL WEAPONS INSTALLED THERE WITHOUT SOVIET CONCURRENCE AND SUPPORT. THE AFGHANS HAVE HAD SAMS SINCE THE DAQOUIST ERA, PRESUMABLY TO CONTEND PARTIALLY WITH THE RELATIVE SUPERIORITY OF THE PAKISTANI AIR FORCE. THERE IS NO INDICATION, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE, WHICH IS, IN EFFECT, SOVIET-CONTROLLED, REPRESENTS ANY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO AMIN AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS DESIRE TO SEE HIM REMAIN IN POWER.
(F) PURGES: CHIEF OF STAFF YAGHUB DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE IN ANY POLITICAL TROUBLE AT THE IMMEDIATE TIME. IN FACT, HE WAS RECENTLY NAMED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RULING PARTY. PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER PANJSHIRI, WHO IS BELIEVED TO ONCE HAVE HAD PARACHUTIST LEANINGS, INDICED HIS LEAVE FOR MOSCOW FOR "MEDICAL TREATMENT" AFTER AMIN'S COUP, AND HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED SINCE IN THE MEDIA. HE COULD BECOME A VICTIM OF THE NEXT ROUND OF PURGES. IN SUCH A CASE, THE SOVIETS COULD POSSIBLY ALSO OFFER HIM REFUGE ON THEIR "RESERVE SHELF."



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